



Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in underline, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]]. Any cancellations are without prejudice.

1. (currently amended) A flying toy apparatus comprising:

a body having an elongate channel formed therein, the channel extending in a longitudinal direction along the body; and
an elastic launch member coupled to the body and configured to be stretched forward in the longitudinal direction by a digit of a user;
wherein the channel is ~~configured~~ substantially barrier free along an entire length of the channel to accommodate passage of the digit therein during launch of the body over the digit.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the channel is downwardly facing.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the channel is substantially U-shaped.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the body includes a curved wall defining the downwardly facing channel.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the curved wall includes an opening formed therein.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the opening is formed on a side region of the curved wall.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the opening is formed in a top region of the curved wall.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the channel extends along substantially the entire length of a lower surface of the body.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a nose member coupled to the body.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the nose member is at least partially constructed of a resilient material.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the resilient material is foam.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein nose member includes a whistle.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the nose member is positioned adjacent a front opening of the channel of the body.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the nose member includes a guide surface extending forward of the front opening of the channel, the guide surface being configured to guide the digit into the channel as the digit approaches the body during launch.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the guide surface is generally funnel-shaped, having a forward opening that is wider than the forward opening of the channel.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the elastic launch member is configured to transition between a stretched state and a retracted state, to thereby impart launch energy to the apparatus.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the elastic launch member includes a spanning portion that spans the front opening of the channel, as viewed from a front of the body, when the elastic launch member is in the retracted state.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the elastic launch member includes a pair of side portions, each of the side portions being positioned on an opposite side of the channel.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the body further includes a pair of guides, each of the guides being positioned on an opposite side of the channel and configured to house a corresponding side portion of the elastic launch member.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the channel faces downward, and wherein each of the guides includes an upwardly facing notch that is formed adjacent a respective lateral edge of the leading portion of the body, each notch being configured to house a respective side portion of the elastic member.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the nose member includes a guide surface that is generally funnel-shaped, the funnel-shaped guide surface having a pair of holes formed therein, each hole being formed on an opposite side of the channel, the respective side portions of the elastic member passing through each of the holes in the guide surface.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the side portions include respective end portions that are fixedly mounted to the body.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the side portions are fixedly mounted to the body via respective anchors located adjacent a trailing portion of the body.
24. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the elastic launch member is formed in a loop.
25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the elastic launch member further includes a bridging portion that is coupled to the body so as to travel up and over the channel, adjacent a trailing portion of the body.
26. (original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the body includes a pair of extensions adjacent the trailing end of the body, the extensions being configured to guide opposite ends of the bridging portion of the elastic member up and over the channel.
27. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body includes one or more fins.
28. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the one or more fins are positioned adjacent a rear end of the body.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each of the one or more fins is configured to be shape-adjustable by a user, to thereby affect the aerodynamic characteristics of the apparatus.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the fins are mounted in respective slots on the body.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the fins are provided in pairs, each pair being formed on a unitary structural element that extends into a respective first slot in the body, and out of a respective second slot in the body, to thereby secure the pair of fins to the body.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body includes a grip.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the grip is mounted adjacent a trailing portion of the body.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the grip includes fabric.

35. (original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the grip includes a plastic tab extending rearward from the trailing portion of the body.

36. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the grip includes an enlarged region to facilitate grasping by a user.
37. (currently amended) A flying toy apparatus comprising:
a body having an elongate channel formed therein, the channel extending in a longitudinal direction along the body;
an elastic launch member coupled to the body and configured to be stretched forward in the longitudinal direction by a digit of a user; and
a resilient nose member coupled to the body adjacent a leading portion of the body; and
a grip coupled adjacent a trailing end of the body;
wherein the channel is configured **substantially barrier free along an entire length of the channel** to accommodate passage of the digit therein during launch of the body over the digit.
38. (currently amended) A flying toy apparatus comprising:
a body having an elongate channel formed therein, the channel extending in a longitudinal direction along the body;
an elastic launch member coupled to the body and configured to be stretched forward in the longitudinal direction by a digit of a user; and
a resilient nose member coupled to the body adjacent a leading portion of the body, the nose member including a funnel-shaped guide surface tapering inward to the channel;

wherein the channel is configured substantially barrier free along an entire length of the channel to accommodate passage of the digit therein during launch of the body over the digit.

39. (currently amended) A flying toy apparatus comprising:

a body having an elongate U-shaped channel formed therein, the channel extending in a longitudinal direction along the body; and

an elastic launch member anchored fixedly mounted to the body adjacent a trailing portion of the body and configured to be stretched forward in the longitudinal direction by a digit of a user;

wherein the channel is configured substantially barrier free along an entire length of the channel to accommodate passage of the digit therein during launch of the body over the digit;

wherein the elastic launch member remains mounted to the body after launch.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the body includes guides coupled to the body, the guides being configured to guide respective portions of the elastic launch member.

41. (original) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising an impact absorbing nose member coupled to a leading portion of the body.

42. (original) A flying toy apparatus comprising:

an elongate body having a trailing portion, a pair of anchors positioned adjacent the trailing portion, and a pair of guides positioned forward of the anchors;

an elastic launch member having a pair of ends, each end being coupled to a respective anchor, the elastic launch member further having a pair of side portions, each side portion passing through a respective guide, the elastic launch member being configured to be stretched forward in a longitudinal direction by a digit of a user, such that the side portions of the elastic member slide within the guides; and

a grip coupled adjacent the trailing portion of the body;

wherein the body is configured to accommodate passage of the digit after release of the grip.

43. (original) A flying toy apparatus comprising:

a body having an elongate channel formed therein, the channel extending in a longitudinal direction along the body, the body including a resting flange; and

an elastic launch member coupled to the body and configured to be stretched forward in a longitudinal direction by a digit of a user, from a retracted configuration in which the elastic launch member is at rest against the resting flange, to an extended configuration in which a portion of the elastic member is stretched forward of the resting flange;

wherein the channel is configured to accommodate passage of the digit therein during launch of the body over the digit.